

Wilton Tree Committee

Final Minutes

January 19, 2011

Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A

Present: Jessica Kaplan, Chairman; Junius Brown; Paula Byrdy; Nick Lee; Barbara Quincy; Kate Throckmorton

Absent: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Paul Young, Tree Warden; Bill Meehan

1. Call to order

Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Nick Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the last committee meeting on November 10, 2010, which was seconded by Kate Throckmorton and carried 6-0-0.

3. Tree Warden's report

As Paul Young was absent, Nick Lee reported that there was essentially no activity in December. He suggested that there is the potential for substantial activity next month because of trees suffering storm-related damage.

4. Ongoing Business

a. Tree Plan Implementation

Chairman Kaplan reported that six trees were planted in front of the Village Market in December. A total of 33 trees have been planted in Wilton Center to date.

Chairman Kaplan will ask Mike Conklin to update the Center Tree Plan map to show all donated trees and locations for new donations. Mr. Lee added that he had identified a spot to replant Paul Young's katsura (which was removed when the new Veterans' Memorial was built). Mr. Young's tree will replace the dead redbud on the Town Green across from Village Market.

- b. Emergency Preparedness Plan
Nick Lee has been in contact with Tom Thurkettle. Because Mr. Thurkettle is busy coordinating the Town's snow plowing, he has been unavailable to meet and discuss the plan.
- c. Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival 2011
The Festival will be held on May 21, 2011, in Cranberry Park, Norwalk. The first planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday February 2. The possibility of sharing a booth was discussed. Barbara Quincy volunteered to help.
- d. Committee Membership
Barbara Quincy was approved for membership by the Board of Selectmen.

5. New Business: Nominations for Tree Steward 2011

Chairman Kaplan opened this discussion by mentioning that, last year, Nick Lee suggested George Symonds for a posthumous award. Besides writing what is considered one of the most comprehensive tree identification books in use, Mr. Symonds established the Wilton Land Trust. Paula Byrde moved to approve this nomination, which was seconded by Junius Brown. The vote was 6-0-0. Nick Lee will contact Mr. Symonds' family and ensure that they are comfortable with this award. Chairman Kaplan also asked Mr. Lee to write a short bio of George Symonds. Presentation of the Tree Steward award will be either at the Wilton Go Green Festival in early May (when the Town will also celebrate Arbor Day) or at the Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival. It was felt that the Wilton location would be more personal.

6. Other Items

- a. Chairman Kaplan sent thank-you notes to all bench donors. One bench remains to be installed at Stop and Shop. This will be done in the spring. On November 30, 2010, Chairman Kaplan, Pat Sesto and Barbara Quincy walked from Wilton Center to Comstock Community Center and identified many spots for future benches. Chairman Kaplan provided these suggested locations to Mr. Brennan in a letter.

- b. Junius Brown asked whether the Tree City signs had been put up yet and Chairman Kaplan said that they had not. Several locations including Route 7 at Wolfpit Road and Route 33 at the Ridgefield town line were discussed. State approval is probably needed if the signs are put on the side of any State roadways. A new application for 2011 Tree City designation is being prepared by Chairman Kaplan. It is necessary to re-apply every year.
- c. Paula Byrdy asked for suggestions for tree varieties to sell at the annual Garden Club Plant Sale in May 2011. Many suggestions were made, including the new hybrid varieties of American chestnut and American elm, river birch, weeping birch, American holly, Pepperidge, and oak.
- d. Ms. Byrdy announced that the Wilton Go Green Festival will be held on Sunday, May 1. She commented that the thirty-plus trees planted in Wilton Center not only beautified that area but also supported the Wilton Energy Commission (of which she is a member) in helping the Town achieve a designation as a "Green Town." Trees reduce carbon dioxide and may conserve energy by shading adjacent buildings.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m. The next meeting of the Tree Committee is Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall annex.